

Mubarak, Rabin to meet

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before the scheduled resumption of Middle East talks, Egypt's ambassador to Israel said Monday. Ambassador Mohammad Bassouny told Israel Radio that agreement was reached on such a meeting before April 20 but it was undecided whether it would be in Egypt or Israel. Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, said Egypt has suggested a Rabin-Mubarak meeting following the Egyptian leader's discussions Tuesday in Washington with President Bill Clinton. Mr. Mubarak will meet France's new conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Thursday on his way home from Washington, Mr. Balladur's office said Monday. Mr. Mubarak is due in Paris Wednesday. There was no immediate confirmation that he would meet Socialist President Francois Mitterrand who appointed Mr. Balladur last week after a general election conservative landslide.

Mubarak faces rights questions from Clinton, page 2

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Clinton wants 1993 to be year of peace

TEL AVIV (R) — President Bill Clinton wrote Israel's president-elect, Ezer Weizman, Monday that he was dismayed by the recent violence in the region, but still hoped to make 1993 "a year of hope and peace." Mr. Weizman, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ruling Labour Party, was elected by parliament last month and will take over the largely ceremonial presidency on May 13. Mr. Clinton wrote Mr. Weizman that "as a war hero who has become an outspoken man of peace your presidency will symbolise Israel's quest for peace and security. I assure you that the United States will work with Israel and its neighbours to make 1993 a year of hope and peace. I am dismayed and concerned by the recent violence... it makes the quest for a peaceful solution all the more urgent."

Cyprus may ask for Greek troops

Nicosia (AP) — If the reduction of the U.N. peace force creates tensions, Cyprus will ask Greece to send troops to the island, the government said Monday. Cyprus government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides said that President Giscard d'Estaing had mentioned the prospect to Marshall Gouliou, the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs when he visited Cyprus last month. Greece, however, said it did not intend to send more troops to the island. "Greece, as a guarantor power, does not intend to alter the number of its armed forces on Cyprus," government spokesman Vassilis Magginas told a news briefing in Athens. Mr. Magginas and Mr. Cassoulides denied press reports claiming that Mr. Clerides had requested the dispatch of two Greek army divisions.

Nateq Nouri in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Iran's parliamentary speaker arrived here for a two-day visit Monday, his first foreign trip since taking office last year. Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, speaker of the Majlis, was accompanied by Iran's ministers of trade, housing and urban development, two undersecretaries and parliamentarians. During his stay, Mr. Nateq Nouri is expected to discuss regional developments, Greek-Iranian trade and bilateral issues. Mr. Nateq Nouri will also visit Poland and Croatia.

Rafsanjani says Iran needs foreign experts

TEHRAN (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani says Iran needs the services of foreign experts and educated Iranians living abroad and should stop rejecting them because of their ideological impurity. In two speeches over the past week, Mr. Rafsanjani argued in favour of tolerance, reviving a call for pragmatism after months of proclamations by purist members of Iran's Islamic leadership. "If we raise anti-foreigner feelings so that when an expert comes here we boo and say 'why have they brought him here and are giving him money?...' we will run into problems," Jomhuri Islami newspaper quoted him as saying.

Estonia slams Yeltsin remarks

MOSCOW (R) — Estonia reacted angrily Monday to a warning by President Boris Yeltsin linking the withdrawal of troops to rights for Russians in the Baltics, saying Russia was motivated only by its desire to dominate the Baltic state. Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference on Sunday, after his summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, that Latvia and Estonia must guarantee rights of Russian minorities if Moscow was to stick to a Soviet-era troop withdrawal plan. "We will be scheduling the actual withdrawal in line with what they decide in the human rights area," Mr. Yeltsin said. The Estonian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that this position violated "international norms of behaviour," it said. "The Estonian government interprets Russia's tactics of delaying the complete and unconditional withdrawal of its forces from the Baltics as an attempt to regain control over the Baltic states."

The issue has caused an impasse in Arab-Israeli peace talks. A new round has been scheduled for April 20, but the Palestinian delegation is demanding new concessions on the exiles before attending.

Senior Egyptian officials told the newspaper that one idea is for the exiles to return by August or September instead of the current deadline of the end of the year.

However, The Times quoted a senior administration official as saying the White House would be unwilling to ask Israel to make another "concession" on the exiles.

"The ball is very clearly in the Palestinian court as to its decision to come to the next round of talks," the official said.

"The time has come for the Palestinians to decide on the basis of the significant package and understandings that got worked out with the Palestinians and the Israelis to come to the table, and that's it."

Israeli generals say, a peace treaty with Syria is nearer than ever but doubt Damascus will drop its demand for return of all the Golan Heights.

In a separate interview with the New York Times Sunday, Mr. Mubarak said he would try to persuade Mr. Clinton to press Israel on the speedy return of the Golan Heights.

"I believe the possibility of an agreement with Syria is closer than at any time in the past."

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Mubarak visit to U.S. "just like Rabin's," page 2

Mubarak faces rights questions from Clinton, page 2

Palestinians fear Israelis plan to fragment W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The week-old closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not East Jerusalem, has sharpened Palestinian fears that Israel wants to break the occupied territories into fragmented cantons in a future peace settlement.

The closure, ordered after 13 Israelis were killed in knife and gun attacks by Palestinians during March, has effectively split the occupied territories into four zones: East Jerusalem, the balves of the West Bank north and south of the city, and Gaza of the Mediterranean coast.

A future Palestinian authority already faces the administrative problem that Gaza is divided from the West Bank by more than 30 kilometres of Israeli territory. Fragmentation of the West Bank would greatly add to the practical difficulties of the Palestinians ever establishing an independent state.

Palestinian negotiator Nazmi Al Ju'beh said that at this stage in

the peace process, "the most problematic point is not sovereignty, but the problem of the integrity of the whole Palestinian territory under occupation."

"We are seeing that the Israelis are trying to make at least four cantons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which we can see not through the closure of the territories," he argued.

The core of the issue is East Jerusalem.

Israel considers the area part of its "eternal capital" so the closure leaves access between East Jerusalem and Israel but seals the city from the West Bank. This cuts the West Bank in half because the main north-south roads run through East Jerusalem.

East Jerusalem is also the economic and social hub of the occupied territories. Palestinian academics say 100,000 people normally come to the city every day for jobs, trade, education, medical care and shopping.

"Jerusalem for Israel is not a security issue, it is not even a

vegetables from all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip are traded.

There are 58 private schools attracting 25,000 students, many from outside the city, and three big hospitals to which patients are referred by doctors throughout the occupied territories. Many hospital staff also live outside the city boundaries.

Israel has ruled out any discussion of Jerusalem at the present stage of the peace process, which is to work out a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

The talks began in October 1991 and were suspended in December after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians. A new round is scheduled for April 20 but it is not yet clear whether Arabs will attend.

Negotiations on a final settlement will start in the third year of the period and will cover Jerusalem. But there is no doubt what Israel wants.

East Jerusalem is the centre of Palestinian commerce and the site of the market where fruit and

(Continued on page 5)

Syria promises 'full peace' in exchange for Golan — Mubarak

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says he has obtained Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's commitment to the "full peace" Israel is seeking in exchange for returning the occupied Golan Heights to Syria, Time magazine reported.

Mr. Mubarak said he has also obtained the proxy of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to try to resolve the impasse over 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon in December, the magazine reported in its latest edition.

"I don't want this chance for stability in this part of the world to pass," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. If it does, "it would be very dangerous for those who want to cooperate with the Americans."

The magazine said Mr. Mubarak spoke with both Mr. Assad and Mr. Arafat before leaving for Washington, where he is to meet President Bill Clinton Tuesday.

In a separate interview with the New York Times Sunday, Mr. Mubarak said he would try to persuade Mr. Clinton to press Israel on the speedy return of the Golan Heights.

"I believe the possibility of an

army chief Ehud Barak told the Davar newspaper in an interview published Monday.

He added he was not sure what kind of agreement Syria was willing to enter. Israel demands Syria commit itself to "full peace," including open borders, diplomatic relations and trade, before it will discuss the extent of any Golan withdrawal.

Lieutenant-General Barak's chief of military intelligence, Major-General Uri Sagiv, said he could not foresee Syria ever dropping its demand that Israel return all of the Golan Heights.

Since entering Middle East peace talks 17 months ago, Israel has promised to return at least part of the Heights for a peace agreements.

"The Syrian demand for sovereignty over the Golan Heights, over all the territory that in their view belongs to them, is an inflexible demand at least at this stage," Gen. Sagiv told army radio Monday.

"I also believe it's hard to imagine it will be more flexible in the foreseeable future," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

Mubarak visit to U.S. "just like Rabin's," page 2

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King honours Shurdum

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred on the outgoing Air Force commander, Lieutenant-General Ihsan Shurdum the Al Kawab Medal of the First Order and thanked him for his valuable services.

In a message sent to Gen. Shurdum, the King expressed deep appreciation for Gen. Shurdum's efforts to develop the airforce.

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Mubarak to face rights questions from Clinton

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Although the United States and Egypt share a desire to stifle Muslim extremism, President Hosni Mubarak may face questions in Washington this week about his strongarm tactics against Islamic militants.

Mr. Mubarak hopes to use his visit with President Bill Clinton and administration officials to rejuvenate the stalled Middle East peace talks. But that goal may be blurred by extremist attacks and police counter-violence at home.

On Friday, Mr. Mubarak told a Kuwaiti newspaper his tactics have "terrorists breathing their last." He has made no secret he is willing to use any means to stop the violence.

But some Egyptians fear his means might not meet with American approval.

"If the U.S. forces Egypt to make some concessions with the Islamic groups, it could be catastrophic," said Osama Al Ghazali Harb, director of the government-funded Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic studies. "If the U.S. puts too much pressure on Mubarak, we could see Egypt go the way of Iran" and become a theocracy.

The question for Mr. Mubarak: How much pressure is too much?

Egyptians may find our Tuesday, when Mr. Mubarak goes to the White House for Mr. Clinton's first meeting as president with an Arab head of state.



Hosni Mubarak

Pyramids. Later, the government announced a programme to install metal detectors at the pyramids and other main tourist sites.

Mr. Mubarak's harsh countermeasures appear to have substantial support among Egyptians.

Human rights advocates, on the other hand, accuse the government of fostering violence by using violence.

"Human rights abuses occur more frequently every day," said Bahaeeddin Hassan of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights.

The State Department substantiates those charges in its latest human rights report. Issued in January, it slams Egypt for using excessive force and accuses Egyptian police of widespread use of torture, especially against suspected Muslim militants.

Mr. Mubarak's government vehemently denies that.

'Mubarak's U.S. visit just like Rabin's'

The Jerusalem Post

WASHINGTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visit here promises to touch on many of the same themes as did Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's just three weeks ago.

The initial meeting is to do the same kind of thing Rabin did when he came here — create a good relationship," said William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank.

According to an Egyptian Embassy official, Mubarak wishes to ascertain that the shift in control of the White House has not affected Egypt's status in Washington.

"This meeting will be very important, very crucial... in indicating Bill Clinton's approach," he said. "The Arab countries were in favour of the Republican presidents (Ronald Reagan and George Bush). The Democratic president should put forward his own policy toward the Middle East based on the recommendations of his friends in the area: Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia."

Also vital to Mubarak is confirming Egypt's aid package. Like Rabin, Mubarak is concerned U.S. budget cutting might lead to a reduction of financial assistance to his country. Notwithstanding Christopher's recent public statements supporting the continued aid to the two countries, Senator Patrick Leahy, a key member of the Senate appropriations committee, called last week for some aid to be diverted from Egypt and Israel to Russia.

The Egyptian Embassy official said that through his country has received assurances from the administration that Egypt's \$2 billion annual aid will be maintained through 1994, an additional public announcement is hoped for.

"If it comes from President Clinton," the official said, "the message would be stronger. It would be good for the diplomatic relationship for the president to say something; it would be more significant."

Mubarak also seeks continued public acknowledgement of his country's role in the peace process. However, experts here downplay reports suggesting Mubarak's visit will help determine whether the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, return to the peace talks later this month.

But Mubarak will not be solely on the offensive. He is likely to face questions about Egypt's crackdowns on Islamic fundamentalists. Recent reports, including a front-page story in the New York Times, highlighted Egypt's harsh measures against Islamic religious groups — including those not implicated in terrorist acts.

A Senate source said there is "a great deal of sympathy for what Egypt is facing with extremists, but there's a concern Egypt is going too far."

Ultimately, American interests will temper any criticism, according to Robert Satloff, acting director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Because an Islamist takeover in Egypt would have near-catastrophic implications for Western interests... Mubarak should find a friendly ear when he lobbies for indulgence in fighting domestic foes with means that might normally run afoul of the administration's commitment to human rights," wrote Satloff.

And when the handshake ceremonies are completed, the primarily item on Mubarak's shopping list here will remain the financial assistance package.

Said Quandt: "I think the Egyptians would like to say when the (Clinton-Mubarak) talks are over that they'll get the reassurance on aid. I think they'll get that reassurance."

Fateh assails Syria and Lebanon, declares open war on Abu Nidal

SIDON (R) — The Palestinian mainstream Fateh movement declared open war Monday on a splinter group led by Abu Nidal after more than a year of tit-for-tat assassinations in Lebanon.

Colonel Munir Makdah, commander of Fateh forces in Lebanon, accused Syria and Lebanon of aiding the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) in the latest killing in the Palestinian power struggle.

Gunned assassinated Fateh's top official in Beirut, Colonel Ihsan Mohammad Salem who was better known as Younis Awad, last week by pumping four bullets into his head as he walked near his home.

"We warn all forces behind the mercenary Abu Nidal group: We will not stand idle while our leaders are liquidated," Col. Makdah told Reuters by telephone from his headquarters in the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh in southern Leba-

non.

"Since their arrogance has reached this level, we consider as targets all places and buildings where the leaders and officials of the Revolutionary Council are present."

Col. Makdah said the killing of Salem was part of a plan aimed at permanently settling Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Fateh, led by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, has been locked in a bloody feud with the FRC in Lebanon since December 1991.

Security sources said Fateh was much bigger and stronger in Lebanon than the FRC but the splinter group has operated underground for years and could be better at hit-and-run attacks.

Salem, 45, was the power struggle's 10th victim this year. Some 28 members of the two factions were killed in bombings

and shootings in 1992 and a truce collapsed after a few weeks.

The FRC, opposed to peace talks with Israel, said Sunday it was withdrawing an initiative for a truce with Fateh and warned it would hit hard again attacks on its leaders.

It vowed to "uproot the destructive state of treason," in the PLO leadership.

The FRC is led by Sahri Al Banna, whose nom de guerre is Abu Nidal. He has been sentenced to death by Fateh.

Abu Nidal split from Fateh in 1973 to mastermind attacks on Israeli targets in Europe, killing scores of people.

The United States lists Abu Nidal as the world's most wanted guerrilla. His whereabouts are not known and he has not been seen in public for years.

Abu Nidal was thought to have been based in Libya and Syria in the past. He is now believed to have links with Iran.

Mysterious fainting spells of girls reported in schools north of Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of teenage girls experienced mysterious fainting spells that forced school officials to close 10 schools north of Cairo, officials said Monday.

Starting last Thursday, swooning girls in Behira province typically spent a few hours in a coma-like state, then awake feeling well. The rate of fainters has gradually decreased, with 11 new cases reported to the Health Ministry Monday.

Extensive blood and urine tests as well as analysis of air and water in the schools found no evidence of poisoning or known disease. The health minister blames mass hysteria.

"I want to assure... Health Minister Raghib Dewidar said: "On the basis of the preliminary results, these are psychological cases that affect girls of this age and then dis-

appear without any complications or permanent effect."

Quoted by the government's Al Akhbar newspaper, Mr. Dewidar said similar cases of mass hysteria happened on a much smaller level in Egypt several years ago and in London 10 years ago.

An official of Mr. Dewidar's Health Ministry told the Associated Press that 207 cases were reported Thursday in the Nile Delta province; none on Friday, when school was in recess; 79 on Saturday; 54 on Sunday; and 11 on Monday, putting the officially at 351. But the daily newspaper Al Ahram reported more than 400 pupils fainted, and the 'Aly Al Wafid said they were at least 500.

Despite the negative tests for poisoning, further tests are being done, said the ministry official, who refused under ministry guidelines to let his name be used.

Newspapers said mainly girls aged 13 or 14 were involved, with only a small number of male teens affected. Some girls told reporters they smelled a bad odour before losing consciousness. Others complained of severe headaches and stomach pains prior to fainting.

Salaheddin Ateya, Behira's governor, ordered 10 schools closed until next Saturday. Al Gomhouria newspaper reported.

Emergency medical centres were set up in the province, 120 kilometres north of Cairo.

Newspaper speculation has been rife as to the cause of the phenomenon, ranging from poisonous fumes emanating from a nearby electricity-generating plant to a new kind of attack by Muslim extremists.

SAUDI ARABIA

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Home News



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives United Arab Emirates Minister of Labour Seif Al Jarwan who is participating in the Arab Labour Conference in Amman (Petra photo)

King receives Arab ministers attending labour conference

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday in separate meetings several Arab ministers who are participating in the Arab Labour Conference which opened in Amman Monday.

The King received Syrian Minister of Social Affairs Ali Khalil who conveyed the greetings of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The Syrian minister commended Jordan's role in hosting

the conference, saying it is a necessary step on the way to Arab solidarity.

King Hussein asked Mr. Khalil to convey his greetings to Mr. Assad and his wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Syriano people.

The King also received the Emirati Labour Minister Seif Al Jarwan who conveyed to the King the greetings of the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al

Nahayan. Sheikh Jarwan highlighted the role of the conference in achieving Arab solidarity and praised King Hussein's role in addressing Arab problems.

His Majesty also received Moroccan Minister of Employment and Traditional Industries Mohammad Ghairi who stressed the need to re-organise Arab relations.

The meetings were attended by Labour Minister Abdol Karim Al Kababri.

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Michigan face N. Carolina in NCAA final

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Michigan camp up with the effort everyone was waiting for, ending Kentucky's domination of the NCAA tournament to reach the championship game for the second straight year.

The 81-78 overtime victory over Kentucky Saturday was as exciting as expected, but it was played at a much slower pace. Instead of a wild-up-and-down transition game, it was one of great defence, with no play better than Chris Webber's with four seconds left.

Webber, who had 27 points and 13 rebounds, gave the Wolverines (31-4) the lead for good on a layup after a spin move with 41 seconds left. Jalen Rose added two free throws for Michigan 20 seconds later.

They will meet North Carolina for the title. The Tar Heels, who are trying to give coach Dean Smith his second championship in nine final fours, advanced Saturday with a 78-68 victory over Kansas.

The American Centre in Amman will be showing the NCAA final on large screen video of the Centre's auditorium in the American Embassy in Amman, Tues. at 6:30 p.m.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Lineker makes winning debut in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Former England soccer captain Gary Lineker failed to score on his debut in Japan but helped his club to a 2-1 victory over Shimizu S-Pulse in a pre-season friendly ahead of Japan's new professional league. Lineker was playing for Grampus Eight of Nagoya for the first time in Japan since he joined them in March, in a match on Sunday in Matsuyama, West Japan. The 32-year-old Lineker is one of several famous foreign players, including Zico of Brazil, who are playing in the new 10-team League which kicks off in mid-May. Lineker had previously played for Grampus Eight in friendlies outside Japan.

Pele praises U.S. organisation

MILAN (AP) — Retired soccer star Pele praised American planning for the 1994 World Cup and said he was certain of great success in the championship final rounds in the United States. "It's a perfect organization. All stadiums are already prepared one year prior to the finals," Pele said Sunday, as he travelled to Italy to unveil the World Championships for Soccer Veterans. Pele, considered one of the best soccer players ever, picked Italy, Germany, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay as the favourite teams in the 1994 World Cup.

El Salvador shock Mexico in World Cup qualifier

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador stunned Mexico with a surprise 2-1 win in their World Cup Concacaf qualifier Sunday. An opportunist 77th minute goal by substitute William Rendón gave the hosts victory. Mexico, technically superior, dominated midfield for most of the game and looked threatening time and again. Meanwhile Cesar Obando scored on a penalty kick after a controversial foul call with two minutes remaining, giving Honduras a 2-2 draw with Canada Sunday in a Concacaf World Cup qualifying match.

Mansell returns home after accident

PHOENIX (R) — Nigel Mansell flew back to his home in Florida Sunday morning after an overnight stay in hospital following his 300 kph crash Saturday. Mansell, who suffered concussion and a badly bruised shoulder when he lost control of his Newman-Haas Lola-Ford in practice for the Valvoline 200 Indycar race, was expected to spend at least a week convalescing, said team spokesman Michael Knight. "Nigel has been released from hospital and has flown in his privately-hired plane back to his home in Clearwater, Florida," he said.

Karpov, Timman to contest official chess final

ZURICH (R) — Two beaten challengers have agreed to play off for the official World Chess title, replacing banned reigning champion Garry Kasparov and finalist Nigel Short, the World Chess Association FIDE said. FIDE withdrew its recognition from Kasparov and Short after they decided to stage their final outside its auspices in a bid to boost the prize fund and take control of professional chess.

Andretti returns to winner's circle

PHOENIX (AP) — Mario Andretti became the oldest man ever to win an Indycar race, taking advantage of some wall-banging by other drivers to come up with his first victory in nearly five years in Sunday's Valvoline 200 at Phoenix International Raceway. Andretti, 53, took the checkered flag for the first time since a victory in Cleveland in July 1988 and became the first driver to win races in four decades. The previous oldest Indycar winner was Johnny Rutherford, who was 48 when he won the 1986 Michigan 500.

Racer falls 200 metres to his death

VALDEZ (AP) — Organisers of the World Extreme Skiing Championships said that a racer plunged to his death while attempting to ski Odyssey Mountain. State police identified the victim as William E. Madsen, 28, of the United States. He was dead on arrival at Valdez Community Hospital. He fell 700 to 1,000 feet (200-300 metres) after the snow on which he was standing gave way. Madsen was waiting for his turn to race at the time. Racers tackle steep slopes for the championship title. Skiers at Odyssey Mountain descend 1,600 feet (490 metres) at an average slope of 45 degrees. The ski event has attracted nationwide interest since it was first organised three years ago. Smith said it was the event's first fatality.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SAFE AT HOME

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH: ♠ 8 7 5 2
 ♦ A K Q 6 2
 ♣ Q 7 3
WEST: ♠ 10 6 4 3
 ♦ Q
 ♥ K Q J 9
 ♣ 8 5 2
EAST: ♠ 8 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♥ J 10 4
 ♣ A 8 4
The bidding:
North: East: South: West:
10 Pass 14 Pass Pass
3 4 Pass 4 4 Pass Pass
4 0 Pass 4 4 Pass Pass
5 5 Pass 6 6 Pass Pass
Pass Lead: King of ♦
Opening lead: King of ♦
For months now Vassili Timkin, the Russian emigre who had made his home in Manhattan, had been doing relatively well at the club. No matter how fast he played, everything seemed to come up roses. But the fates turned cruelly when this hand was dealt.

Timkin had once again learned the truth of the maxim "speed kills." Had he taken some time when East produced the queen of trumps at trick two, he might have uncovered the winning line.

Suppose East's queen of trumps was allowed to hold the trick? The best East can do is return a club. Declarer rises with the ace, runs a heart, comes to hand with the jack of diamonds, to ruff the remaining heart, and then draws all the outstanding trumps. Now declarer can run the diamonds and end up with three trump tricks, one heart, two heart ruffs, five diamonds and a club—12 in all.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Adams takes Arsenal to Wembley again

LONDON (R) — Arsenal set up a double Wembley date with Sheffield Wednesday with a 1-0 F.A. Cup semifinal victory over arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur Sunday.

A headed goal 11 minutes from time by skipper Tony Adams was enough to earn Arsenal a return trip to the famous stadium for the second of two up finals inside the next six weeks, both against Wednesday.

Already booked to meet in the League Cup final later this month, the pair will now also line up again on May 15 in the showpiece match of the English season.

Arsenal did it the hard way, finishing the match with 10 men after England defender Lee Dixon was sent off for a late tackle. There were six other bookings in a fast and furious encounter which had initially been dominated by Spurs.

But Adams' leap at the far post to send Paul Merson's free-kick past Eric Thorstvedt proved the decisive moment, giving Arsenal fans a chance to forget their disappointment at the same two years ago.

Spurs won that semifinal 3-1 after a spectacular free-kick from Paul Gascoigne had put them on their way. This time, with Gascoigne and Gary Lineker so long-gone at the club, they could find no-one to supply a similar inspirational final touch.

Compared with the all-Sheffield clash the previous day, there was less space for both sets of players as they fought out the unofficial championship of North London in front of 76,000 hyped-up supporters.

Spurs enjoyed much the better of the first half, with Darren Anderton and Teddy Sheringham a constant threat up front.

Schillaci scores twice as Inter moves closer to AC Milan: Salvatore Schillaci scored twice Sunday to lead Internazionale to a 3-1 victory over Sampdoria of Genoa and move it a little closer to Italian league and cross-town

rival AC Milan.

The victory improved Inter's slim chances of overtaking the red and black, pulling it within seven points with eight matches remaining.

After an unbeaten string of 58

league games, the seemingly once-invincible AC Milan has slipped in recent weeks, including losses in the League and Italian Cup semifinals. With its 2-2 draw

Saturday with Napoli, AC Milan has seen its lead cut by four points in three weeks.

In other games Sunday, Brescia

drew with Ancona 1-1; As Roma drew with Fiorentina 1-1;

and Torino drew 1-1 with Lazio.

Besides Milan's draw, Parma beat Pescara 2-0 Saturday and Udinese drew with Juventus 0-0.

Bayern lose grip: German

coaches Erich Ribbeck and

Christoph Daum have each pre-

scribed hard work as the cure for

their side's increasing ills in the

Bundesliga.

Bayern Munich's Ribbeck and

VFB Stuttgart's Daum have both

seen their team suffer unexpected

hardship in one of the most open

German championships for years.

It was only just over a week

ago that Bayern Munich were

four points ahead of the rest of

the field and looked to be head-

ingly towards a record 13th

championship.

But, having been beaten away

from home all season, Bayen's

lead has melted away following

defeats at Hamburg last

weekend and at relegation-

threatened Wattenscheid Friday.

They now only lead second-

placed Werder Bremen on a higher

goals tally. Stuttgart, mean-

while, seem to have lost their

nerve completely since they were

knocked out of the European

Cup when Daum sent too many

foreign players onto the pitch

against Leeds last September.

VFB lost the UEFA-ordered re-

play.

Maradona fuming after dope test:

Diego Maradona, who has been

keeping an unusually low profile at

the weekend.

An injury to key striker

Michel Laudrup took the gloss

off Barcelona's weekend victory

which kept them on course for a

second successive Spanish

League title.

The comfortable 3-0 win over

lowly Logrones kept Barcelona

two points clear of championship

rivals Real Madrid and a further

point ahead of Deportivo Coru-

na, but left coach Johan Cruyff

more worried than pleased.

Cruyff will be without the Dan-

ish striker for at least 10 days

after he suffered a leg injury after

just 20 minutes of Sunday's

match, and his absence was

obviously a major concern to the

Dutchman.

The Argentine, who stormed

out of Sunday's post-match news

conference, also accused autho-

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Economy

Nigerians urged to face harsh reality

LAGOS (R) — The head of Nigeria's Civilian Transitional Council, Ernest Shonekan, has urged the country to face economic reality or risk hyper-inflation and a massive currency devaluation, state television said.

Mr. Shonekan, a respected former industrialist, said OPEC-member Nigeria faced tough decisions and had few available options before the army's planned handover to civilians in August.

"He warned of the need for the nation to face economic reality or risk hyper-inflation and a massive currency devaluation," television said after Mr. Shonekan addressed private sector leaders in Lagos.

Bankers say annual inflation is around 80 per cent, depressing an economy already hurt by corruption, a low naira currency and foreign debts totalling about \$28 billion.

Bankers said it was unclear how much power Mr. Shonekan wielded, including his influence over the Central Bank of Nigeria which reported to the military presidency.

Officials and bankers are concerned at the low level of the naira, now trading at an official rate of 23.76 to the dollar.

This compares with a rate of 10 before a 41 per cent devaluation 13 months ago and parity during the early 1980s.

The naira fell last week below a symbolic record low of 40 to the dollar to 42.2 on the officially- tolerated parallel market, widely used for a range of imports.

The government has said already it plans to ease subsidies totalling \$2 billion a year on domestic fuel sales, possibly in June, as sought by the foreign press.

The official-parallel rate gap is now 76 per cent, a few points

below the level that led to last year's devaluation.

Some banks are believed to be selling scarce foreign exchange at around 28 naira to the dollar, instead of the official rate at which it was bought from the central bank.

Finance Secretary Oladele

Olasheko took a swipe at domestic financial institutions last Thursday. "We cannot hide under the guise of deregulation to watch helplessly as Nigeria's economy gets bastardised," Mr. Olasheko, quoted by newspapers.

The official-parallel rate gap is now 76 per cent, a few points

Turkish firm needs urgent cash for Kazakh oil

ANKARA (R) — The state-run Turkish Petroleum Company (TPAO) has appealed for funds so it could compete with Western companies in the search for oil in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

"This is a historic opportunity for Turkey," General Manager Okan Ozdemir said in a statement issued by the Petroleum Geologists Association, which is affiliated to TPAO.

"We have encountered reserves at three crude oil fields and one natural gas field from the seven fields we agreed with Kazakhstan last year for exploration," he said. "But we need \$800 million in the next four years, and \$200 million of it very urgently."

Erkan Atalik, the association's head, said Turkey's 1993 budget allocation for TPAO was only equivalent to \$94 million.

"It's clear that our budget cannot meet what is needed in a year," he told Reuters.

Kazakhstan and TPAO set up the joint Kazakh-Turk Oil, 60 per cent owned by Kazakhstan and 40 per cent by TPAO, and signed a 25-year agreement in December to explore oil in seven fields in the pre-Caspian basin.

Kazakh-Turk Oil will operate the fields and market its own output when it produces oil.

"We estimate the reserves in the three oil fields at about 1.29 billion barrels and those in the gas field at 382.2 billion cubic metres," Mr. Ozdemir said.

"But TPAO is in a pathetic situation. If we cannot find the required finance with government help, we will lose out on the project as we are having a ruthless battle with very big competitors in Kazakhstan," he pointed out.

The former Soviet republic has signed energy deals with U.S. oil giant Chevron Corporation, France's Elf-Aquitaine, Italy's Agip and British Gas.

TPAO earlier won exploration licences in Azerbaijan.

"We are talking about 19.5 billion barrels of reserve oil both to Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, and a total of 6.5 billion barrels of oil will come to Turkey," Mr. Ozdemir said.

Turkey and Azerbaijan signed an agreement last month for a \$1.4 billion pipeline to carry crude oil from Baku via Iran or Armenia to the Mediterranean coast.

The 1,068 kilometre pipeline, to be operational after 1997, is designed to carry 25 million tonnes of Azeri oil, and at a later stage 15 million tonnes of Kazakh oil a year.

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Azeris say Karabakh Armenians pushing further over border

BAKU (R) — Armenian forces are closing in on the key southern town of Fizuli in Azerbaijan, where their advances have already swallowed up one tenth of the Armenian mainland, taking advantage of growing political turmoil inside Azerbaijan.

The Defence Ministry said Monday,

Karabakh Armenians seized about 4,000 square kilometres of Azeri territory sandwiched between the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia over the weekend.

The Defence Ministry spokesman said Armenian forces were now only two kilometres from Fizuli, which was under heavy artillery fire. Fizuli's civilian population had fled, he added.

"If they seize Fizuli, they will have effective control over two key districts — Zangelan and Kubatly — which will complete the joining of Karabakh with Armenia," one official said.

The mostly Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain region wholly enclosed by Azeri territory, have fought a bloody five-year battle for independence from Baku. Several thousand people have died.

Capturing Fizuli would cement the Karabakh Armenian gains by bringing all of south-western Azerbaijan under Armenian control. Fizuli lies in a narrow strip of Azeri territory separating Karabakh from Iran. It is 30 kilometres north of the border.

Armenia says it is sympathetic to the Karabakh Armenians' struggle but is not involved itself.

Armenia does not officially recognise Karabakh's declaration of independence. But the thousands of Armenians who fight part-time in Karabakh belong to their ethnic kin call their country "artsakh," or greater Armenia, which includes Karabakh.

Azeri radio said Mr. Elchibey,

In the past year, Armenians have broken out of the region and punched communications lines to the Armenian mainland, taking advantage of growing political

turmoil inside Azerbaijan.

Last May, they established the 12-kilometre Lachin corridor through western Azeri territory.

Armenia, which has a mutual defence pact with Russia, repeated assurances it had no claims on Karabakh and no quarrel with Azerbaijan. It stressed that its own forces were not crossing internationally accepted borders with Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan admitted Saturday that Karabakh Armenian forces had seized Kelbadzhar town and district, just north of Lachin.

Overall, a Defence Ministry statement said, nearly one tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands and 15,000 civilians were trapped behind Armenian lines.

Azerbaijan's President Abdul Elchibey appeared on Azeri television Sunday night to castigate a bloody five-year battle for independence from Baku. Several thousand people have died.

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Azeri radio said Mr. Elchibey,

who declared a two-month state of emergency throughout the country Friday, had appointed 21 military commanders of cities and districts.

But Baku was quiet Monday morning. Shops worked normally and the streets were free of armed patrols. One Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named, said: "The only aim of the state of emergency was to ban opposition political activity."

Azerbaijan has traditionally close ties to NATO member Turkey. Turkey said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia because of its recent attacks.

The Turkish daily Milliyet newspaper Sunday said Turkish Air Force jets had flown reconnaissance sorties on the border with Armenia. The armed forces did not confirm the report.

Meanwhile, Iranian security forces detained four soldiers from neighbouring Azerbaijan after they crossed the border in a military vehicle, Iran's news agency said Sunday.

The Iranian forces at the border outpost in the Razi region arrested the officer and three non-commissioned officers and confiscated a semi-automatic rifle and a pistol, it said.

The Azeris said they had crossed into Iran accidentally.

In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Turkish President Turgut Ozal Monday condemned the latest Armenian military advances in Azerbaijan as unacceptable.

Mr. Ozal told journalists during a visit to the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan that Turkey, whose people are ethnically linked to the Azeris, was "doing everything possible" to put pressure on Armenia.

Mr. Ozal said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia because of its recent attacks.

Asked how this would affect Armenia, Mr. Cetin answered: "They say they have no electricity and no food. But they have tanks."

The interview was taped Sunday in Vancouver after the summit between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Rival Muslim, Serb and Croat military commanders meet under U.N. auspices in Sarajevo Tuesday to try to consolidate a fragile eight-day ceasefire in the Bosnian civil war.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government has signed all three parts of an internationally-sponsored peace plan, as have Bosnian Croat leaders.

Rebel Serbs have signed the plan's general declaration of principles and a proposal for military disengagement, but have rejected a map dividing Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous regions along ethnic lines.

Mr. Christopher said: "The main thing I would do would be to level the playing field. At the present time, the Bosnian Serbs have all the heavy weapons and Muslims have very few."

"Now, that's not an ideal solution because it would probably bring to an end the humanitarian efforts there. It would also probably escalate the fighting in ways that are most unattractive. On the other hand, it does seem unfair the way the embargo is operating at the present time," he said.

He resigned three weeks after the electorate turned against Italy's ruling parties but stayed on as caretaker prime minister until last June.

Mr. Andreotti is the second former prime minister under inquiry over a system of magistrates they say have uncovered under which politicians regularly took bribes on public works contracts.

that he is being investigated on suspicion of links with mafia bosses after being implicated by mob turncoats.

They want his immunity from prosecution as a life member of the Senate, the upper house of the Italian parliament, lifted so that he can stand trial. A Senate jury will meet on April 14 to rule on the request.

Mr. Andreotti has dismissed the charges as a mafia conspiracy.

The move by investigators Monday marked the first time that Mr. Andreotti has been drawn into a huge corruption scandal centred on Milan, Italy's business capital.

He could face up to four years in jail if the inquiry leads to charges and a conviction.

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